

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 34, 38, 39 and 40 as follows. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A ~~computer implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from a grantor to a grantee, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~in electronic format~~ regarding at least one receivable from a grantor to at least one potential grantee;

offering a purchase option to the potential grantee, the purchase option providing the potential grantee the right but not the obligation to purchase the receivable, the purchase option providing the grantor with an obligation to sell the receivable;

offering, by the potential grantee to the grantor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the grantor from the potential grantee, acceptance of the option fee by the grantor constituting an acceptance by the grantor of the purchase option from the potential grantee and thereby providing the potential grantee the right to purchase the receivable at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering a purchase option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential grantee is required by

the purchase option to provide notification to the grantor regarding purchase of the receivable, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the grantor and the notification date.

2. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from a grantor to a grantee, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~in electronic format~~ regarding at least one receivable from a grantor to at least one potential grantee;

offering an option to the potential grantee, the option providing the potential grantee the right but not the obligation to acquire the receivable, the option providing the grantor with an obligation to convey the receivable;

offering, by the potential grantee to the grantor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the grantor from the potential grantee, acceptance of the option fee by the grantor constituting an acceptance by the grantor of the option from the potential grantee and thereby providing the potential grantee the right to acquire the receivable at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering an option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential grantee is required by the option to provide notification to the grantor regarding acquisition of the receivable,

Serial No.: 09/704,303

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wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the grantor and the notification date.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receivable is a collection of receivables.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the collection of receivables includes at least one selected from the group of charged-off consumer receivables, charged-off commercial receivables, delinquent consumer receivables and delinquent commercial receivables.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein forwarding information regarding at least one receivable includes:

distributing non-confidential information from the grantor to the potential grantee;

determining if the potential grantee requested confidential information; and

forwarding confidential information from the grantor to the potential grantee if the potential grantee requested confidential information.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the potential grantee offers to the grantor a purchase price offer for the receivables, along with the option fee offer, in return for the right to pay the purchase price at a later time.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein accepting the option commitment fee by the grantee includes the steps of:

determining information about the potential grantee; and

determining that the information satisfies a list of requirements.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the list of requirements is established by the grantor.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further includes the step of forwarding, from the potential grantee to the grantor, notification regarding exercise by the potential grantee of the purchase option.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the notification is forwarded on or before the notification date.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein:

if the grantee does not wish to accept the receivables, then the notification includes the grantee communicating to the grantor that the grantee does not wish to accept the receivables; and

if the grantee does wish to accept the receivables, then the grantee providing no communication to the grantor that the grantee accepts the receivables, thereby providing notification by the absence of any communication.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein:

if the grantee does wish to accept the receivables, then the notification includes the grantee communicating to the grantor that the grantee accepts the receivables; and

if the grantee does not wish to accept the receivables, then the grantee providing no communication to the grantor that the grantee does not accept the receivables, thereby providing notification of such non-acceptance by the absence of any communication.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein:

if the grantee does wish to accept the receivables, then the notification includes the grantee communicating to the grantor that the grantee accepts the receivables; and

if the grantee does not wish to accept the receivables, then the notification includes the grantee communicating to the grantor that the grantee does not wish to accept the receivables.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the notification is either an acceptance by the potential grantee, such that the potential grantee becomes a committed grantee, or a non-acceptance by the potential grantee, such that the potential grantee does not become a committed grantee.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the grantee pays the purchase price and the receivables are conveyed from the grantor to the grantee.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the committed grantee fails to pay a purchase price for the receivables, the method then further including the committed grantee paying a non-compliance fee to the grantor.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the committed grantee pays a purchase price to the grantor and thereafter the grantor fails to deliver the receivables to the committed grantee, the method then further including the grantor refunding the purchase price, refunding the option commitment fee, and paying a non-compliance fee to the committed grantee.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the notification is a refusal by the potential grantee, such that the potential grantee loses the option to purchase the receivables.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the potential grantee relinquishes and the grantor retains an option commitment fee.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the potential grantee fails to provide notification to the grantor by the notification date and, as a result, the grantor retains the option commitment fee.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the grantor is a seller and the potential grantee is a buyer.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of determining the amount of the option fee based on the length of the option period.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further including increasing the option fee as the length of the option period increases.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the forwarding information regarding at least one receivables from a grantor to at least one potential grantee step is performed utilizing a computer.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the computer is a grantor computer, and the grantor computer is in communication with a grantee computer, the grantee computer under the control of the grantee.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the offering a purchase option to the potential grantee step is performed utilizing a computer.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the computer is a grantee computer, and the grantee computer is in communication with a grantor computer, the grantor computer under the control of the grantor.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a computer determines the amount of the option fee, the computer determining the option fee based on the information regarding at least one receivables and terms of the purchase option.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the computer utilizes a computer program.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the grantor includes a primary grantor and a third party acting in conjunction with the primary grantor.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the third party is an agent of the primary grantor.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the grantee includes a primary grantee and a third party acting in conjunction with the primary grantee.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the third party is an agent of the primary grantee.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from a grantor to a grantee, the grantee initiating the distribution, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~electronically~~ regarding desired receivables from a grantee to at least one potential grantor;

offering a purchase option to the potential grantor, the purchase option providing the grantee the right but not the obligation to purchase the receivables, the purchase option providing the potential grantor with an obligation to sell the receivables;

offering, by the grantee to the potential grantor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the potential grantor from the grantee, acceptance of the option fee by the potential grantor constituting an acceptance by the potential grantor of the purchase option from the grantee and thereby providing the grantee the right to purchase the receivables at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering a purchase option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the grantee is required by the purchase option to provide notification to the potential grantor regarding purchase of the receivables, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the potential grantor and the notification date.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34, wherein the method further includes the step of forwarding, from the grantee to the grantor, notification regarding exercise by the grantee of the purchase option.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein the notification is forwarded on or before the notification date.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 36, wherein the notification is either an acceptance by the grantee, such that the grantee becomes a committed grantee, or a declination by the grantee, such that the grantee does not become a committed grantee.

38. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from a lessor to a lessee, the receivables being available for leasing to the lessee, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~electronically~~ regarding at least one receivable from a lessor to at least one potential lessee;

offering a lease option to the potential lessee, the lease option providing the potential lessee the right but not the obligation to lease the receivables, the lease option providing the lessor with an obligation to lease the receivables;

offering, by the potential lessee to the lessor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the lessor from the potential lessee, acceptance of the option fee by the lessor constituting an acceptance by the lessor of the lease option from the potential lessee and thereby providing the potential lessee the right to lease the receivables at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering a lease option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential lessee is required by the lease option to provide notification to the lessor regarding leasing the receivables, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the lessor and the notification date.

39. (Original) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from an assignor to an assignee, the receivables being available for assignment to the assignee, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~electronically~~ regarding at least one receivables from an assignor to at least one potential assignee;

offering an assignment option to the potential assignee, the assignment option providing the potential assignee the right but not the obligation to receive an assignment of the receivables, the assignment option providing the assignor with an obligation to assign the receivables;

offering, by the potential assignee to the assignor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the assignor from the potential assignee, acceptance of the option fee by the assignor constituting an acceptance by the assignor of the assignment option from the potential assignee and thereby providing the potential assignee the right to receive an assignment of the receivables at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering an assignment option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential assignee is required by the assignment option to provide notification to the assignor regarding receiving an assignment of the receivables, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the assignor and the notification date.

40. (Currently amended) A ~~computer implemented~~ method for determining the distribution of receivables from an licensor to an licensee, the receivables being available for license to the licensee, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding information ~~electronically~~ regarding at least one receivables from a licensor to at least one potential licensee;

offering an license option to the potential licensee, the license option providing the potential licensee the right but not the obligation to receive a license of the receivables, the license option providing the licensor with an obligation to license the receivables;

offering, by the potential licensee to the licensor, an option fee;

accepting the option fee by the licensor from the potential licensee, acceptance of the option fee by the licensor constituting an acceptance by the licensor of the license option from the potential licensee and thereby providing the potential licensee the right to receive a license of the receivables at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering a license option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential licensee is required by the license option to provide notification to the licensor regarding receiving a license of the receivables, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the licensor and the notification date.

41. (Original) A computer implemented method for determining the distribution of receivables from a grantor to a grantee, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining grantor information regarding at least one receivable from a grantor;

obtaining grantee information regarding at least one desired receivable from a grantee;

matching the grantee with the grantor, the matching being based on the grantor information and the grantee information;

offering an option to the potential grantee, the option providing the potential grantee the right but not the obligation to acquire the receivable, the option providing the grantor with an obligation to convey the receivable to the grantee;

offering an option fee from the potential grantee to the grantor;

determining acceptance of the option fee by the grantor from the potential grantee, acceptance of the option fee by the grantor constituting an acceptance by the grantor of the option from the potential grantee and thereby providing the potential grantee the right to acquire the receivable at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering an option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential grantee is required by the option to provide notification to the grantor regarding acquisition of the receivable.

42. (Original) The computer implemented method according to claim 41, wherein the option period is a time period between the accepting the option fee by the grantor and the notification date.

43. (Original) The computer implemented method according to claim 41, wherein the method is performed using a grantor computer and a grantee computer.

44. (Original) The computer implemented method according to claim 43, wherein the method is performed using an interface computer that interfaces with the grantor computer and the grantee computer.

45. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the option period is the entirety of the time period between accepting the option fee by the grantor and the notification date.

46. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein exercise by the potential grantee of the purchase option includes acceptance of the purchase option or refusal of the purchase option.

47. (Previously presented) A computer-based system for determining distribution of receivables, comprising:

a means for forwarding information regarding at least one receivable from a grantor to at least one potential grantee;

a means for offering a purchase option to the potential grantee, the purchase option providing the potential grantee the right but not the obligation to purchase the receivable, the purchase option providing the grantor with an obligation to sell the receivable;

a means for offering, by the potential grantee to the grantor, an option fee;

a means for accepting the option fee by the grantor from the potential grantee, acceptance of the option fee by the grantor constituting an acceptance by the grantor of the purchase option from the potential grantee and thereby providing the potential grantee the right to purchase the receivable at or before the end of an option period; and

wherein the offering a purchase option includes establishing a notification date, the notification date being a date on or before which the potential grantee is required by the purchase option to provide notification to the grantor regarding purchase of the receivable, wherein the option period is a time period that exists between the accepting the option fee by the grantor and the notification date.